MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech

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Thursday, August 30, 2018

WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 88°F | 67°F Chance Thunderstorms

FRI: 73°F | 65°F Partly Cloudy

SAT: 75°F | 68°F Mostly Sunny

New security on MIT rooftops

Hacker: 'No matter what, people will go on rooftops'

By Sheila Baber
NEWS EDITOR

Cameras, card readers, and alarms are among the newest installations on rooftops as part of the campus Roof Access project. John DiFava, chief of police and director of campus services, wrote in an email to *The Tech* that the project began in March and will conclude in October or November. There will be signage installed on the rooftops with new security measures to announce the presence of these measures, according to DiFava.

The MIT Housing Policy maintains that students are prohibited from committing fire and safety violations including "entering or occupying the roof of any residence except in areas designated for, and approved by, MIT for assembly use." DiFava wrote that police and campus services will review requests for roof access on a "case-by-case basis" and asked the community to "protect themselves and others, and avoid unnecessary risks."

It seems unlikely that the newest security installations will prevent those determined to access the roofs from attempting to do so. In the publicly available police logs, there were at least two incidents related to rooftop access in the past 60 days, one classified as "TRESPASS" resulting in a verbal warning June 8, and another classified as "SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY" occurring Aug. 23.

In an interview with *The Tech,* a student who wished to remain anonymous due to legal ramifications associated with hacking said that members of the hacking community learned about the impending installation of cameras, card readers, and alarms through floor plans and interactions with facilities workers. "Also, the cameras are really obvious," they added.

The source told *The Tech* that the hacking community as a whole will refrain from modifying or tampering with the security systems, but said that they could not speak for specific individuals.

"We have a big respect for CPs [Campus Police]. We avoid them, and keep a lookout for them. When Sean Collier died, we put collection bins in the dorms asking people to make white cranes. We pulled a hack for him on the anniversary," they said, referring to the cascade of white cranes installed in Stata in memory of the police officer killed in the line of duty in 2013. "We tell people — when they see CPs, to not run — the roof could be wet, and you don't want them to fall. They're just doing their job."

According to the same anonymous source, members of the hacking community have expressed doubts as to whether the installations will contribute to the safety and well-being of the community.

"There will always be ways around security — they will just be less safe. There's a learning curve to how to move around [safely while hacking]. Hacking is an adventure sport, and as with all adventure sports, the ones who get injured frequently are the beginners and the cocky experienced people," the source said.

There is also skepticism surrounding the intentions behind the security installations. "We've heard that these systems came in place not to stop hacks specifically, but to prevent suicides. These interventions feel fake. They could have measures within dorms, have more walk-in hours, get more therapists at MIT Medical," the source said. "MIT needs to get better at helping people. I've heard that these are some really fancy cameras with sensors. That money could have been spent on mental health and other forms of help."

The source continued, "No matter what, people will go on roofs. There are people who came to MIT for hacking — prefrosh have heard stories about the police car and will try to [pull off a hack] no matter what."

NATHAN LIANG—THE TECH

Students mob the Simmons Trojan Duck at the REX Water Wars event Aug. 28.

Investigation ongoing for gunshots fired near PBE fraternity Tuesday

Gunshots were fired in the vicinity of 400 Memorial Drive, where MIT's Phi Beta Epsilon fraternity is located, during the early morning hours Tuesday.

"No injuries have been reported and there are no known direct threats to the campus," according to an emailed campus advisory issued by Sergeant Andrew Turco on behalf of the MIT Police.

Massachusetts State Police have also been involved in the investigation. Several shell casings were found in the area, explained a post on the MSP blog, and it was determined that two windows, a tree, and a parked, unoccupied sport utility vehicle were struck by rounds.

As of the Wednesday post, the investigation, including into potential suspects and motive, remains active.

The glass on one of the first floor windows of PBE was visibly broken and cracked, and will likely need to be replaced, according to an article and photo by *The Boston Globe*.

— Jessica Shi

SHEILA BABER—THE TECH

Signage indicates presence of video surveillance in the sub-basement of Building 9, which contains hacking murals.

Office of Communications launches new mit.edu website

Navigation and search redesign primarily aimed at prospective students, as requested by leadership

By Zoe Anderson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The MIT Office of Communications launched a new homepage July 25 in an effort to improve navigation and search. "Today's Spotlight," which features a news item or update from MIT, is still the focus, while the landing pages, layout, and color scheme have been redesigned.

The main audience for the redesign is prospective students, as requested by MIT's leadership, Vice President of Communications Nate Nickerson wrote in an email to *The Tech.*

The top two priorities were to "make it easier to find important information and improve search [capability]," based on results from an "intercept" survey which appears on the homepage after 60 seconds that was conducted over the period of more than a year, Nickerson wrote.

Most of the 50 plus links on the homepage were not being clicked. The search function, which users especially wanted to see improved, was the most-used feature.

The barrage of links on the page made it hard to know where to go for information, current student William Wu '19 told *The Tech* in an interview. Now, there are fewer links, which are more cleanly laid out, making the site easier to use, Wu said.

The new search engine, Elasticsearch, "allows MIT to optimize results based on user analytics and institutional knowledge" and offers auto-search, Nickerson wrote.

The search bar now has its own page. Current student Jessica Tang '19 said in an interview with *The Tech* that this is a trend she has seen, but that she finds it a little odd that its auto-suggest has "see more results" and "view all" options, as opposed to filling up more space on its page.

Wu said that the "Highly searched" and "Recommended today" lists shown on the homepage introduce users to content that they would not have thought to search. Tang saidthat this would be especially helpful to site visitors who are new to MIT and not sure where to start.

In the "intercept" survey, many respondents criticized the visual design of the old homepage, espe-

Homepage, Page 2

Bomb threat reported near Hayden Lib., no explosives found by police

There were reports of a bomb threat at 160 Memorial Drive (Building 14) on 9:52 p.m. Aug. 25. According to the community news site *Cambridge Wicked Local*, the call was placed by someone believed to be a man from California. The MIT Police Logs state that MIT Police worked with Cambridge Police, Cambridge Fire, and State Police to search the building. The police did not find explosives, and the area was cleared.

IN SHORT

Submit a waiver for the MIT Student Extended Insurance Plan by Friday if you have comparable health insurance and want to waive enrollment.

PE registration starts Friday at 8 a.m. for undergraduate students and Sept. 4 for graduate students. It will close Sept. 5. First come, first serve!

The **first day of classes** is Sept. 5.

Be sure to submit your **subject registrations** (due Sept. 7) after your advisor approves them!

Interested in **joining *The Tech*?** Stop by for dinner Sunday at 6 p.m.

Send news and tips to *news@tech.mit.edu.*

THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

MIT Democrats endorse candidates for MA primaries. **OPINIONS, p. 4**

TAKE YOUR JOY!

We Happy Few provides an aggressively British, psychedelic survival experience whose gameplay leaves much to be desired. **ARTS, p. 5**

HUNTING THE POWER BEHIND THE FALLEN THRONE

Operation Finale's strong cast delivers an admirable performance in a lacking film.**ARTS, p. 6**

CARROT AND KATANA APPROACH

Ninjin: Clash of Carrots takes a carrot-based twist on the traditional side-scrolling bullet-hell.. **ARTS, p. 6**

SECTIONS

Opinion 4
Arts 5
Fun Pages 7

WEATHER

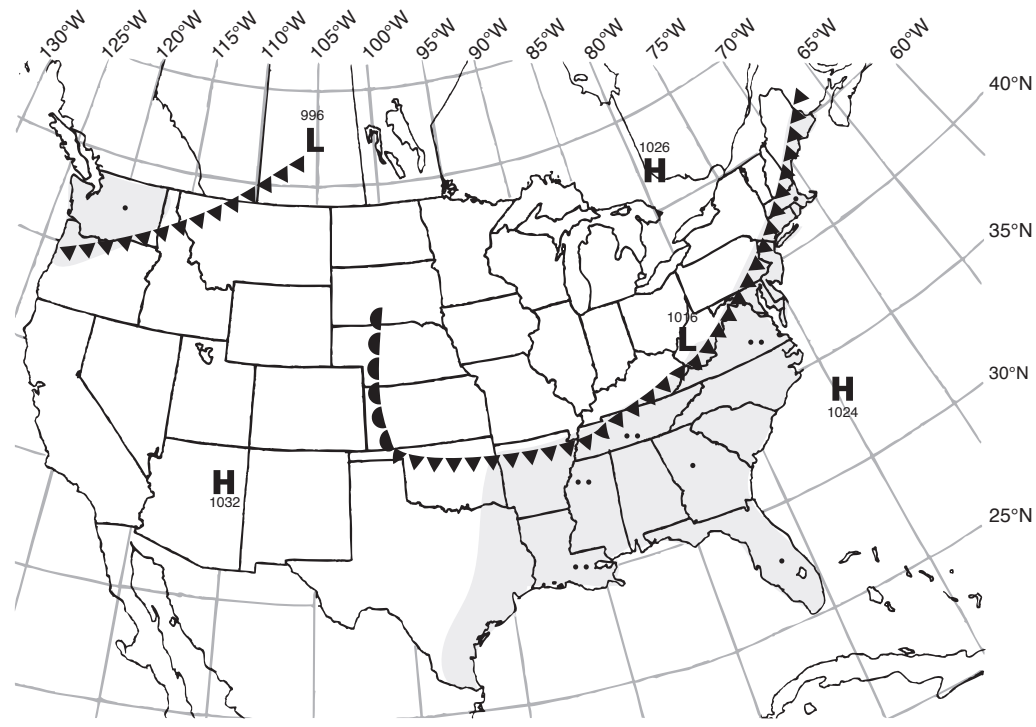
A brief respite from the heat

By Jordan Benjamin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

On Tuesday night, Boston recorded its 2nd warmest low temperature on record — 81 °F (27 °C), but relief is coming. Thursday begins a brief cooldown from the oppressive, dangerous heat of the past couple days. As a cold front surges through the region, isolated thunderstorms could form during the afternoon before temperatures drop significantly overnight. On Friday, temperatures will struggle to rise out of the low 70s °F as much less humid and more comfortable air overspreads the Northeast. The respite will be short-lived, however, as high heat and humidity will return by Sunday and likely last well into next week. These waves of excessive heat are driven by high pressure building over the Western Atlantic ocean and Eastern U.S. — a pattern that shows no signs of breaking anytime soon. Elsewhere, the quiet tropical Atlantic could begin to pick up over the next week as conditions become favorable for tropical waves moving off of Africa. Hopefully, we can avoid a repeat of last year's disastrous hurricane season.

Extended Forecast

Today: Partly Cloudy. A Chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. High around 88°F (31°C). Winds NW at 5-10 mph.
Tonight: Partly Cloudy. Low around 67°F (19°C). Winds NE at around 10 mph.
Tomorrow: Partly Cloudy. High around 73°F (23°C). Low around 65°F (18°C). Winds NE at around 10 mph.
Saturday: Mostly Sunny. High around 75 °F (24°C). Low around 68°F (20°C).
Sunday: Mostly Sunny. High around 85°F (29°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, August 30, 2018

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
			Snow	Rain	
H High Pressure	Trough	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Light	*	•	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Moderate	**	••	Haze
	Stationary Front	Heavy	***	•••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

John McCain, war hero, senator, presidential contender, dies at 81

By Robert McFadden
THE NEW YORK TIMES

John S. McCain, the proud naval aviator who climbed from depths of despair as a prisoner of war in Vietnam to pinnacles of power as a Republican congressman and senator from Arizona and a two-time contender for the presidency, died Saturday at his home in Arizona. He was 81.

According to a statement from his office, McCain died at 4:28 p.m. local time. He had suffered from a malignant brain tumor, called a glioblastoma, for which he had been treated periodically with radiation and chemotherapy since its discovery in 2017.

Despite his grave condition, he soon made a dramatic appearance in the Senate to cast a thumbs-down vote against his party's drive to repeal the Affordable Care Act. But while he was unable to be in the Senate for a vote on the Republican tax bill in December, his endorsement was crucial, though not decisive, in the Trump administration's lone legislative triumph of the year.

A son and grandson of four-star admirals who were his larger-than-life heroes, McCain carried his renowned name into battle and into political fights for more than a half-century. It was an odyssey driven by raw ambition, the conservative instincts of a shrewd military man, a rebelliousness evident since childhood and a temper that sometimes bordered on explosiveness.

Nowhere were those traits more manifest than in Vietnam, where he was stripped of all but his character. He boiled over in foul curses at his captors. Because his father was the commander of all U.S. forces in the Pacific during most of his 5 1/2 years of captivity, McCain, a Navy lieutenant commander, became the most famous prisoner of the war, a victim of horrendous torture and a tool of enemy propagandists.

His mother, Roberta McCain, Navy all the way, inspired his political career. After retiring from the Navy and settling in Arizona, he won two terms in the House of Representatives, from 1983 to 1987, and six in the Senate. He was a Reagan Republican to start with, but later moved right or left, a maverick who defied his party's leaders and compromised with Democrats.

He lost the 2000 Republican presidential nomination to George W. Bush, who won the White House.

In 2008, against the backdrop of a growing financial crisis, McCain made the most daring move of his political career, seeking the presidency against the first major-party African-American nominee, Barack Obama. With national name recognition, a record for campaign finance reform and a reputation for candor McCain won a series of primary elections and captured the Republican nomination.

But his selection of Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska as his running mate, although meant to be seen as a bold, unconventional move in keeping with his maverick's reputation, proved a severe handicap.

At some McCain rallies, vitriolic crowds disparaged black people and Muslims, and when a woman said she did not trust Obama because "he's an Arab," McCain, in one of the most lauded moments of his campaign, replied: "No, ma'am. He's a decent family man, a citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues."

On Election Day, McCain lost most of the battleground states and some that were traditionally Republican. Obama won with 53 percent of the popular vote to McCain's 46 percent, and 365 Electoral College votes to McCain's 173.

With the rise of Donald Trump, the Republican flame thrower who steered U.S. politics sharply to the right after his election in 2016 as the nation's 45th president, McCain was one of the few powerful Republican voices in Congress to push back against Trump's often harsh, provocative statements and Twitter posts and his tide of changes.

Color choices described as 'ugly,' 'weird' on website launch day were quickly modified

Homepage, from Page 1

cially prospective undergraduate and graduate students. Respondents said it should be more "modern" and "professional," according to Nickerson. Another common suggestion was to make it more mobile-friendly.

Only about five percent of users are located in Cambridge, but these users account for about 23 percent of all site visits in the past year. The team is working to meet the needs of both "the power-using 5 percent here on campus and the other 95 percent who have little or no familiarity with us," Nickerson wrote. Tang said that right now, the site does feel optimized for the latter group.

MIT cares that its current students "have the digital resources they need," Nickerson wrote, listing the new Office of the Registrar's site (which consolidates over a dozen sites) and the upcoming redesigns of the Admissions and Student Financial Services sites as examples. Nickerson wrote that the redesign team will work to improve it going forward as they receive feedback.

Current students make up one percent of "intercept" survey respondents. "I suspect it's because a) they are too busy to respond to many surveys [and] b) they are power users who generally use Google to deep link into the MIT ecosystem, rather than using the front door/home page," Nickerson wrote.

Prospective students, who are the main audience, make up 53 percent of respondents to the "intercept" survey.

Prospective students prefer the new site, Nickerson wrote. The new site has also created an increase in referral traffic to the School of Engineering's various sites with admissions and academic information. The search bar has seen a 74 percent increase in use.

Tang said that she liked that the layout has more space — even though some might call this "wasted real-estate," Tang said this style is less intimidating than large chunks of text. She also said that she thought the site seems to have quite a lot of hidden links, and she was particularly surprised by how hidden the links for donations and the Better World initiative are.

Nickerson wrote that about 10 people told the Office of Communications on the launch day that the color choices were "ugly" or "weird," leading the office to quickly tone it down. The initial color contrasts did not follow design visibility standards, Tang said. Now, the color scheme is "modern, fresh, and uplifting," Wu said. Wu said that the links pop out more than they did on the old site because of the link-background saturation contrast.

The Office of Communications collaborated with the Admissions Office and brought in the creative agencies Blue State Digital and Upstatement to work on the redesign. Blue State Digital conducted preliminary research two years ago. Upstatement did the redesign, with input from prospective students through collaboration with Admissions and with input on life at MIT from current students through three pop-up workshops in Lobby 10.

Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!

Write for Campus Life. *join@tech.mit.edu*

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Division of Student Life

Solution to The T

from page 7

9	3	4	5	1	8	2	6	7
7	8	6	3	9	2	4	1	5
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6	4	5	1	2	7	8	9	3
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8	7	3	9	5	6	1	2	4

Do you like doodling during class?
Are your psets covered with drawings?
If so, become a Tech Illustrator!
E-mail join@tech.mit.edu

Solution to REX

from page 7

2	4	3	5	6	1
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3	5	4	6	1	2
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Solution to Set the Date

from page 7

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9:30pm: Ice cream social

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1:30pm – 5pm:
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Chacha & Tango
Team match!

All events in Lobby 13

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OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION OPINION

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GUEST COLUMN

Voting in the Democratic Primary? The MIT Dems endorse these candidates

These candidates offer promising platforms on housing, public transportation, and other important issues

Primary elections are set to take place in Massachusetts on Tuesday, September 4th. These are pivotal elections, taking place at an important time in our country and in our state. How we vote in September and November will affect issues that directly impact the student population, such as housing policy and transportation reform. But who in Massachusetts isn't impacted in some way by the housing market or by the effects of a less-than-thriving public transit system? These are only a few of many social policy issues that loom large for all Massachusetts residents. In the primary elections, we vote on which candidates from each party will end up on the general election ballots in November.

To help residents on or near MIT's campus navigate the Democratic primary ballot, the MIT Democrats are proud to endorse the following candidates. These races are for some of the top positions in the state, including Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, District Attorney for Middlesex County, and the MA-7 seat in the US House of Representatives. They also represent the critical struggle currently taking place all over the country between long-time politicians and relative newcomers fighting to shape the future of the Democratic party and the national political climate.

U.S. House of Representatives, MA-7: Ayanna Pressley

We endorse Ayanna Pressley for Representative for MA-7. While Pressley and incumbent representative Capuano are in close agreement on policy issues, Pressley will likely write and sponsor legislation addressing important social issues including equity for women, poverty alleviation, sexual violence prevention, and racial equality.

We feel that her years of experience as a senior aide and political director for Representative (and then Senator) Joseph Kennedy II and later John Kerry give her a familiarity with the Washington political process that will aid her in her role as Representative. We feel that she has demonstrated her political capabilities well in her position as city councilor. We believe that she will represent MA-7 successfully and prioritize many issues that are important to MIT students, such as affordable housing, immigration reform, and the environment. While Representative Capuano has been a loyal liberal vote in his time in congress, we believe Pressley will better represent a new generation as a progressive voice in the Democratic party.

Lieutenant Governor: Quentin Palfrey

We endorse Quentin Palfrey for Lieutenant Governor. Palfrey is a dedicated civil servant with years of government service under his belt and a track record of strong leadership on the issues that matter most to progressives in Massachusetts.

Quentin previously served as the Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) North America here at MIT, an organization dedicated to enhancing the use of evidence-based decision-making in tackling poverty and inequality in the United States. He also served in the Obama Administration in the Office of Science & Technology Policy and the Department of Commerce. He has shown a strong commitment to tackling big issues like systemic inequality, criminal justice reform, health care, education, and voter protection. His ambitious progressive vision, understanding of the importance of data and evidence, and practical experience serving the public make him the most qualified candidate in this race.

Middlesex County DA: Donna Patalano

We endorse Donna Patalano for Middlesex County District Attorney. The criminal justice system unfairly favors the wealthy and privileged, and inequalities persist in how the law is enforced. The district attorney's office has great power to bring fairness and transparency to law enforcement, and Donna Patalano has demonstrated her commitment to making change. She understands racial disparities in sentencing, the failure of mass incarceration, and how cash bail disproportionately hurts the working class. She has also made a commitment to increase transparency in the District Attorney's office, including thorough data collection and publication. For her consistent support of criminal justice reform and reducing social and economic injustice in law enforcement, MIT Democrats is proud to support Donna Patalano.

Secretary of State: Josh Zakim

We endorse Josh Zakim for Secretary of State because his platform on voting rights would make it easier to vote in Massachusetts, particularly for students, whose voices are underrepresented in state and local politics. Zakim had supported and fought for automatic voter registration at the state level for years before it passed the state legislature this spring. He also supports election-day voter registration, early voting, weekend election days, absentee voting with no need for a legal excuse, and ranked choice voting. This is in contrast to his opponent, who has defended in court the 20-day registration deadline that makes it difficult for students to organize and vote in Massachusetts elections — particularly in primary elections, where the voter registration deadline falls before students arrive on campus.

Zakim is an attorney and community activist and was elected to the Boston City Council in 2013. He has chaired several city committees, most recently the Committee on Civil Rights. Among many other achievements on the Boston City Council, Zakim authored the Boston Trust Act (a 'sanctuary city' bill) and co-sponsored legislation to enable a lite version of automatic voter registration in Boston. His valuable experience and commitment to expanding access to the ballot for all makes us proud to support Zakim for Secretary of State.

We hope that these endorsements are helpful and informative for members of the MIT community and surrounding areas. For more information, including to check your own voting registration status, and a guide to all the Democratic primary candidates, please visit vote2018.mit.edu and democrats.mit.edu.

Davi da Silva is a PhD student in HST and the President of MIT Democrats.

Ellen DeGennaro is a PhD student in HST and a member of MIT Democrats.

Burhan Azeem is a Senior in Materials Science and Engineering and a member of MIT Democrats.

Ahmed Elbashir is a Sophomore in EECS and a member of MIT Democrats.

OPINION POLICY

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Charlie Moore, Editor in Chief Emma Bingham, Executive Editor Patrick Wahl, Contributing Editor Vivian Zhong, and Opinion Editors Steven Truong and Fiona Chen.

Dissents are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

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VIDEO GAME REVIEW

The things you do for carrots

A rather unusual beat 'em up style video game

★★★☆☆

Ninjin: Clash of Carrots

Developed by Pocket Trap

Published by Modus Games

Rated E10+ for everyone ages 10 & up

Available on PS4, Switch, Windows, Xbox One

Releasing on Sept. 4

COURTESY OF POCKET TRAP

Ninjin facing off against one of the many bosses in the game.

By Nathan Liang
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Based in an anthropomorphic feudal Japan, the evil Shogun Moe has sent a crew of minions to raid a small village of its precious yearly carrot crop. Then, amidst the chaos, a young rabbit by the name of Ninjin bursts forth and chases after the scurrying minions. This is what sets the plot for the main story.

Upon first play, the game seems fairly simple. The playstyle is essentially a scrolling beat 'em up game with minimal controls to move, attack, and dash/dodge. The enemy attack and movement patterns are also rather predictable at first. *Ninjin: Clash of Carrots* also allows for local or online co-op, introducing Akai the ninja fox as a second playable character. Altogether, these elements pave the way for a somewhat challenging game with adorable art and nostalgic music.

However, this initial impression gets thrown out the window as the levels quickly evolve into bullet hells, which require an arm-numbing amount of button mashing to be conquered. New enemies are thrown at you left and right, and some bosses take a very concentrated mindset to beat (I'm looking at you, sumo bear).

Luckily, the option to completely customize your weapon and gear loadouts helps ease the blow from the ramped up difficulty of the game. Players can choose from a variety of weapons, from close-range to elemental damage to throwable, as well as accessories, such as orbs that increase your base health stat.

And if nothing else, the quirky writing of the game can provide a respite to players in between frustrating tidal waves of enemies bent on stopping Ninjin's every advance. From Corgi Jr.'s unfortunate porta potty prison to Shogun Moe's moody son, the silent protagonist's accompanying companions and adversaries never fail to provide goofy commentary for the overall cartoonish ambience.

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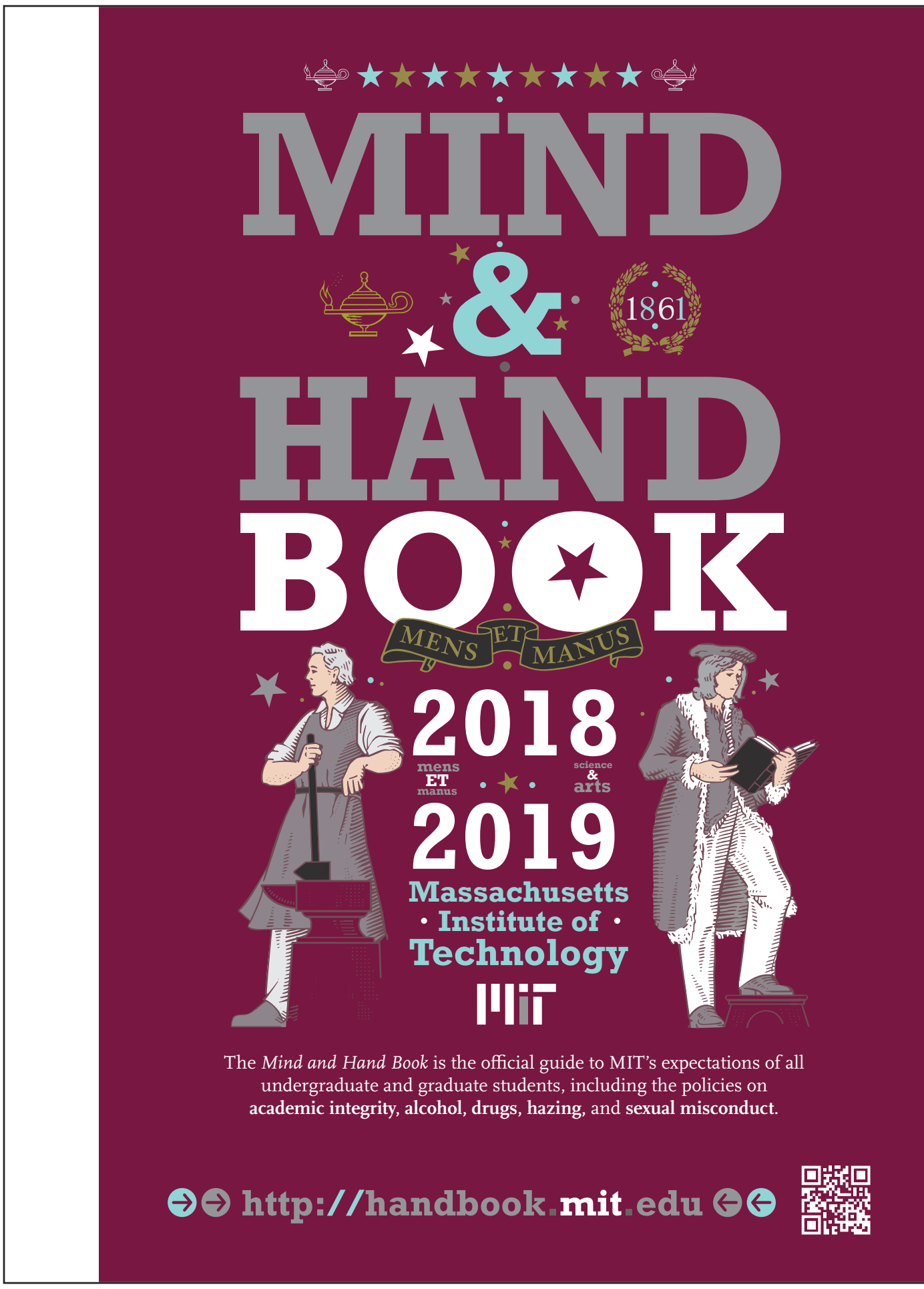


ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW

‘I beg you, do not fail’

Operation Finale highlights yet another story of Nazi retribution

COURTESY OF METRO GOLDWYN MAYER PICTURES

Hanna Regev (Mélanie Laurent), Peter Malkin (Oscar Isaac), Rafi Eitan (Nick Kroll), Zvi Aharoni (Michael Aronov), and Moshe Tabor (Greg Hill) discuss plans for Operation Finale.

By Nathan Liang
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Peter Malkin (Oscar Isaac) was dealt a hard hand in life. Having grown up Jewish in World War II Germany, he watched his older sister and her three children die before his eyes. Now, he joins a team of Mossad who are chasing a lead on Adolf Eichmann (Ben Kingsley), Hitler's so-called deadliest lieutenant and "architect of the Final Solution."

In the case of historical blockbuster dramas, it seems Hollywood has not yet run out of ways to incriminate the Nazis during their reign in WWII or thereafter. With *Operation Finale*, we see the focus shift away from the infamous target of Adolf Hitler to one of his malicious organizers and the waiting game leading up to his capture and eventual trial in Israel.

Overall, the film feels very slow-paced. There are a lot of moments that felt too long, dragging the audience along while the group of Israeli spies planned and calculated their each and every move. And though I would agree with the perspective that the drawn-out-feel is meant to emulate the time it would have actually taken to conduct the operation, the film didn't immediately captivate or excite like in the case of similar historical dramas (such as *Argo* or *Bridge of Spies*).

However, what *Operation Finale* lacks in pacing, it makes up with a strong cast, relatively interesting characters, and a suspenseful soundtrack.

In particular, I enjoyed watching Oscar Isaac play the role of Peter Malkin. Throughout the film, Malkin struggles with one overarching problem: his want to avenge the death of his family versus his want to bring Eichmann in for trial in the name of justice. Once the former SS officer has been captured, it's obvious that the death of his older sister haunts him the most, and it drives him to nearly kill Eichmann on a multitude of occasions. Despite this, Malkin manages a level of personal restraint that is quite admirable. At one point, he even goes to the extent of putting the operation at risk by putting aside his differences with Eichmann and trying to talk to him on a human level. In baring a more vulnerable side to the accused, Malkin shows how much he is willing to risk for the sake of the success of the operation.

Regardless, *Operation Finale* could have been more interesting. It continually builds up to an end that may satisfy the moral conscience but ultimately leaves the feeling that there are still loose ends to tie up.

★★★☆☆

Operation Finale

Directed by Chris Weitz

Screenplay by Matthew Orton

Starring Oscar Isaac, Ben Kingsley, Mélanie Laurent, Nick Kroll, Michael Aronov

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Just let me run!

Struggling to survive in *We Happy Few*

COURTESY OF COMPULSION GAMES

The protagonist is in combat with a bobby.

★★★☆☆

We Happy Few

Developed by Compulsion Games

Published by Gearbox Publishing

Rated M for Mature

Available on PS4, Xbox One, and Windows

By Johnson Huynh
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

It's a lovely day. The Nonsuches are blooming. The Joy has never been more effective, making everyone happy! And they have been happy — for the last 15 years. Sadness no longer exists in the little town of Wellington Wells. Anybody who says otherwise will have a nice little visit to the police station for a friendly chat. So keep taking your Joy! As they say, "Happy is the country with no past!"

This is *We Happy Few*, a survival game set in an alternative 1960s England. Taking a page from George Orwell's *1984*, the game depicts everyday people trying to live in a futuristic dystopia. The only difference is that the citizens were the ones to craft their birdcage. To help them forget all about their horrible pasts, Joy is synthesized to keep everyone gleeful and cheery. As long as the citizens keep taking it, they'll never remember any of the awful things they did during the German Occupation which happened years ago. Well, most of them don't.

You follow the three interconnected stories of Arthur Hastings, Sally Boyle, and Ollie Starkey as they attempt to live in their dystopia. You'll need to master a complicated crafting system and each character's special abilities if you want to survive. Offering a procedurally-generated world filled with different environments that all have their own set of rules, the developing team had a big promise to fulfill to all the people who wanted both an immersive world and compelling story-line. The result? A game that is less than the sum of its parts.

For much of the game, until you unlock a specific skill, you can't run without serious consequences. People become suspicious in the town, chasing after you until you break their line of sight or until they bludgeon you to death. As a result, you are stuck at a walking pace in a labyrinth of a city. The horrible framerate doesn't help either. I found myself trudging through the early parts of the game while I was trying to get used to the flow of the game. Said flow is mostly pointless side quests that give you skill points. They are unreasonably difficult in the early game but become trivial when you unlock all the skills in the late game. It feels satisfying to blaze through the quests when you finish your skill tree, so it's frustrating to see your progress disappear at the end of one arc as you finish one character's story.

While each of the protagonists has an intriguing tale, the gameplay often gets in the way of the narrative. Much of the interesting parts of the characters are locked away behind collectibles which don't show up on the map, so it's possible to miss out on interesting characterizations. The game loses steam because of this. The characters become flat.

I wanted to enjoy *We Happy Few* more than I actually did. It sells you an 1960s aesthetic that's really easy to fall in love with. The actual product is more like Joy. It's enjoyable for about a few minutes. Then it becomes an absolute trudge as you attempt to play the game version of *1984*. While it slightly redeems itself with the profoundness of the storylines, it can hardly be considered a "smashing time."

The T

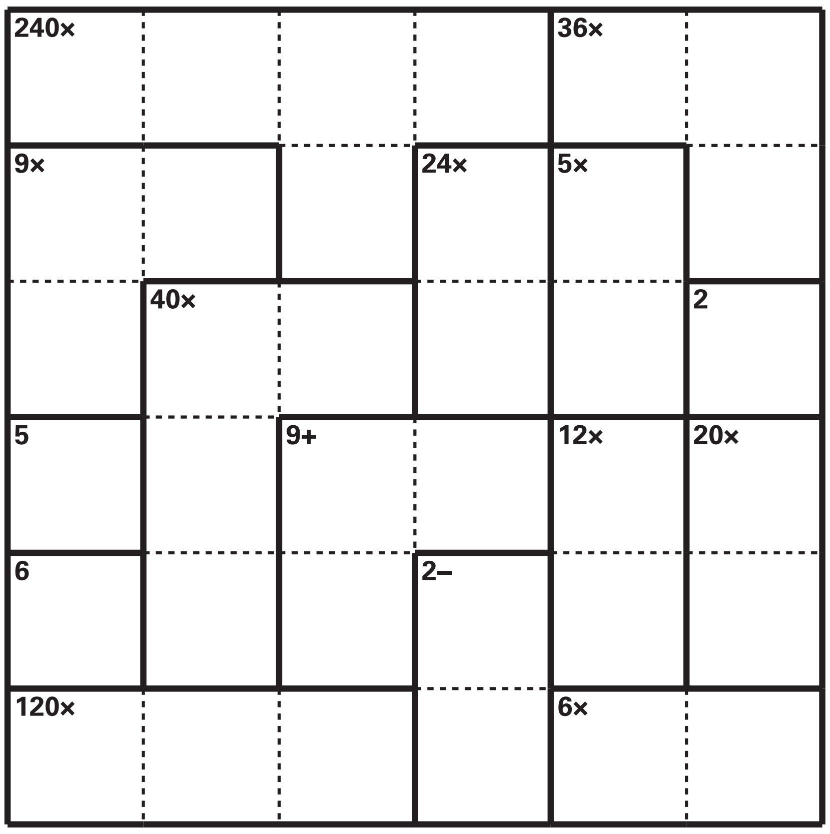
Solution, page 3

			5	1				7
7	8	6		9	2		1	
2			7			9		
	2	7	6					
					5	6	4	
		5			7			3
	9		8	4		5	7	6
8				5	6			

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

REX

Solution, page 3



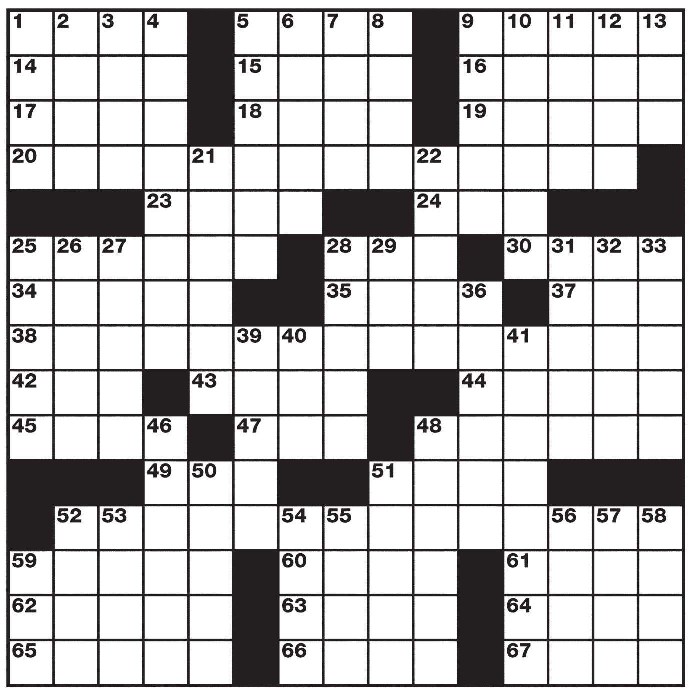
Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Set the Date by Sandy Fein

Solution, page 3

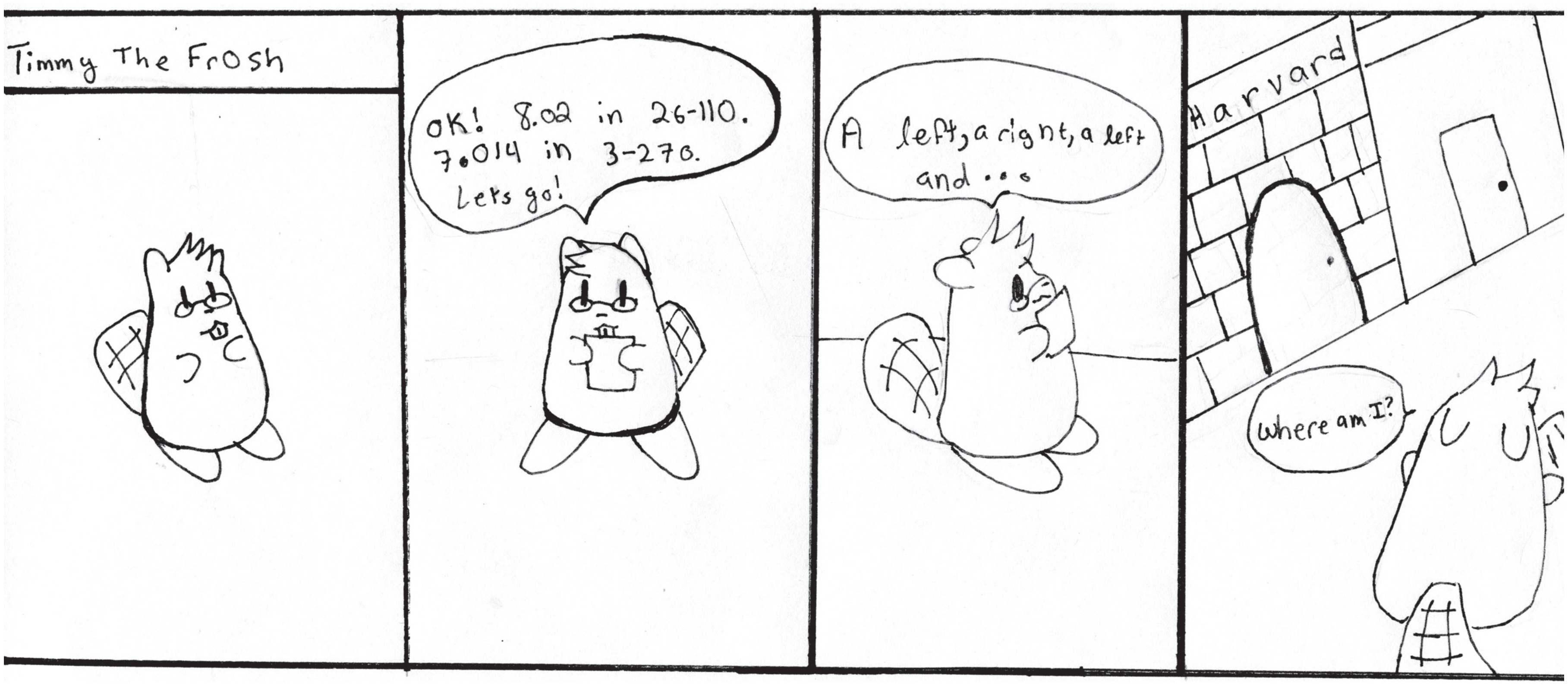
ACROSS
1 What a blizzard is made of
5 Sports cable channel
9 San Antonio landmark
14 Valentine sentiment
15 University sports org.
16 One walking through water
17 And others: Abbr.
18 Wintry, as weather
19 In the know
20 Question "popped" to a girlfriend
23 Ernie's Sesame Street roommate
24 Poem of praise
25 Thin in supply
28 Writing tablet
30 Flag maker Betsy
34 Assistants
35 King Kong and his family
37 Physicians' org.
38 What 20 Across is
42 Earth-friendly prefix
43 Lasso
44 Not moving
45 Lions' lairs
47 Scratch up
48 Coat-of-arms emblems
49 Donkey
51 Manner of walking
52 It's often presented during a 38 Across
59 Is boastful
60 St. Paul's state: Abbr.
61 Operatic solo
62 Climbs, as the temperature
63 Threesome
64 Young stallion
65 All set
66 Noticed
67 It may be "bended" during a 38 Across

DOWN
1 Whole bunch
2 "It wasn't me!"
3 Racetrack shape
4 Brought up to be respectful
5 Concert's bonus song
6 Merit badge earner
7 Coconut tree
8 Nothing, in Mexico
9 Oscar or Emmy
10 Bar Association member
11 Garden of Eden guy
12 Nothing more than
13 Rock in a mine
21 Soldier's respectful reply
22 Contest for cowboys
25 Made a cut through wood
26 Slice of cake or pizza
27 Attach, as a building wing
28 Material inserted into a printer
29 Fourth month of the yr.
31 Desert stopping places
32 Intelligent
33 Seasons, as popcorn or peanuts
36 Team __ (good morale)
39 Flavor-enhancer-avoiding restaurant request
40 Coll. transcript stat
41 __ mind (single-topic preoccupation)
46 Drooped
48 Circus performer launcher
50 Fresh-mouthed



51 Aladdin's wish-granting pal
52 One of the Great Lakes
53 Rocket-launching agcy.
54 CPR experts: Abbr.
55 Muddy ground
56 De-wrinkling appliance
57 The major river through Egypt
58 Fence entryway
59 "I'm freezing!"

Timmy the Frosh by Max Evans



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